

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ON CONGRESS' CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ADDRESS THE ONGOING CRISIS IN IRAQ INVOLVING THE ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND SYRIA (ISIS)

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I support my colleague FREDERICA WILSON in the effort she has undertaken to #bringbackourgirls, addressing the horrors of Boko Haram having extracted these girls from their lives. We also, in addition to that responsibility, have an exacting responsibility with reference to ongoing circumstances that the President addressed last Wednesday evening. On August 14, nearly a month ago, I wrote to the President asking him to be mindful of a letter that I sent to Speaker BOEHNER. I include both my letter to President Obama and to Speaker BOEHNER for the RECORD. I said the following in my letter to Speaker BOEHNER:

I respectfully call upon you to bring Congress back into session so that we may meet our constitutional responsibility to address the ongoing crisis in Iraq. As you know, the situation there is becoming increasingly more complex and continues to defy easy resolution.

There is no doubt that the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) will continue to terrorize the people of Iraq, leading to an increase in the tens of thousands of Iraqi Christians, Yazidi and other refugees who have been driven from their homes. However, we in Congress have a responsibility to make sure that America is not dragged into another ongoing military endeavor in Iraq. Although the current airstrikes may have stopped ISIS momentarily, we still have a responsibility under Article I powers to delineate and impose a timeframe for these efforts as we move forward.

The situation in Iraq on a political, humanitarian and military level is increasingly dire, and we may very well have a duty to meet these difficulties with force along with any number of other strategic responses, but we certainly have a duty to meet as a body at the earliest possible date to discuss these issues and act accordingly under the United States Constitution and the War Power Resolution.

I thank you for your time and consideration of my request and ask for a prompt response.

My letter to the President stated the following:

AUGUST 14, 2014.

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,
President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: I write to inform you that I sent the attached letter to Speaker Boehner today, calling on him to bring the U.S. House of Representatives back into session so that we may address the crisis in Iraq.

The situation in Iraq on a political, humanitarian and military level is increasingly dire, and we may very well have a duty to

meet these difficulties with force along with any number of other strategic responses, but we certainly have a duty to meet as a body at the earliest possible date to discuss these issues and act accordingly under the United States Constitution and the War Power Resolution.

I certainly appreciate your timely attention to the complex and difficult situation unfolding in Iraq, and want you to know that I am eager to facilitate a resolution to the current crisis by making sure the Legislative and Executive branches of our government work in unison to achieve an acceptable outcome for the American and Iraqi people.

I thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

ALCEE L. HASTINGS,
Member of Congress.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,742,108,970,073.37. We've added \$7,115,231,921,160.29 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, America is a nation composed of individuals whose ancestors were once part of other nations. As they work for a better, brighter tomorrow for themselves and more importantly for their children, these individuals become Americans. I would like to take just a moment of this body's time to thank and congratulate a group of my constituents who are making sure that the story of how their ancestors helped build America is shared.

Today, I rise to recognize Hispanic Heritage of Odessa, which will begin a month-long celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month with a breakfast this morning at McKinney Park. Hispanic Heritage Month first began in 1968, and each year, the celebration and tradition has grown as has our community.

This morning Hispanic Heritage of Odessa will continue their efforts to build a stronger community—one based upon hard work, integrity, and the importance of family—by recognizing the good work done by our fellow citi-

zens. The breakfast will honor many influential members of the Hispanic community in Odessa who serve as an example to the younger generation to do good and re-invest in those around you.

It is important that these stories are shared, not only with the wider community in which they live, but also with young people, who will benefit by learning how to form the backbone of their community—one that places their families and neighbors above themselves. Each one of those stories is unique, but through each one of them, children will hear how hard their parents and grandparents worked to fashion a better life for future generations.

On behalf of the 11th District, it is an honor to recognize and represent Hispanic Heritage of Odessa and the thriving, vibrant Latino community it serves. As this event and celebration continues to grow, it is my hope that the values they celebrate today are transmitted to and embraced by the next generation of Hispanic leaders in Ector County.

TRIBUTE TO TOM MCLEMORE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tom McLemore, the clerk of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, who will be leaving the Committee staff after more than 13 years of service.

Tom joined the Appropriations Committee staff in 2001 and has worked on various subcommittees and for various chairmen since that time, ultimately becoming the clerk of the Defense Subcommittee in 2011.

As the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I have had the honor and pleasure of working closely with Tom. He is professional, he is reliable, he is dedicated, and he gets every job done well, regardless of the circumstances.

Tom is a leader. He efficiently manages his staff, not by micromanaging but by empowering them to make informed recommendations. He is affable, he is thoughtful, and he is calm under pressure.

As we all know, congressional staff work countless hours and through countless holiday seasons in order to keep this esteemed institution running. This inevitably takes a toll on personal commitments, and nothing means more to Tom than his supportive and loving family. In his new employment, Tom will hopefully have more time to spend with his lovely wife, Cory, and their two girls, Anna and Maggie.

I have said before, and I will say again, the Appropriations Committee has the best staff on Capitol Hill. And Tom McLemore is the epitome of that statement. Congress, and I, will surely miss this leader; but we thank him for his service and dedication and wish him well now and in the future.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.